



Bitterroot National Forest

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WILDFIRE UPDATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bitterroot NF Fire Update

Canyon Fire is Out

HAMILTON, MT; AUGUST 11, 2007 PM.

The national fire information website at www.inciweb.org seems to be a bit easier to access today.

New Starts

- The Canyon Fire, started by Thursday evening's thunderstorm, is now out. After the fire was reported early Friday morning, the Forest responded successfully with helicopters and rappellers.
- There are two new fires on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest near the Bitterroot NF boundary at Lost Trail Pass. The Bitterroot NF is assisting with suppression sending 30 firefighters to the "Lost Trail" fire. It is currently at 5 acres in size.

Wildland Fire Use Fires: Fifteen wildland fire use fires continue to be managed for resource benefits in the Frank Church-River of No Return, Selway-Bitterroot and Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness areas. Total acres involved in these fires totals approximately 5000, and the individual fires range in size from over 3000 to less than 1/10 of an acre. Additional information about these fires is available from the West Fork Ranger District at 821-3269.

Information about new starts on the Bitterroot can be obtained online from the Bitterroot National Forest's dispatchers' weblog: visit <http://63.196.254.151/WildWeb/WCMT-BRC.htm> then follow link to "open incidents".

Ongoing Project Fires

- The Rombo fire, at 3400 acres, is being managed by a Type II team based near the West Fork Ranger District. Information regarding that fire is provided by the Rombo Fire Information Team, which you can reach by calling 406-821-0082.
- The Tin Cup fire is 608 acres in size and 80% contained. Stage II Evacuation Orders have been lifted by the Ravalli County Sheriff although all homes in the area remain under Stage I alert. This fire is managed by the NorCal Type II team. You can reach the information officers for that fire at 821-4247 or 821-1057.

Neighboring Forests' Fires

- The Bridge Fire, located on the Clearwater NF, is approaching 20,000 acres. It is 3 – 4 miles west of and across the ID-MT divide from the Bear Creek-Mill Creek area. Interior areas of the fire contain unburned stands continue to torch, creating the large smoke plume that is visible from the Bitterroot Valley. More information is available at www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater or by calling 208-942-3113.
- The Wyman 2 Fire, located on the Lolo National Forest east of Stevensville, is threatening to burn across the Sapphire Mountain divide into the upper Burnt Fork drainage on the Bitterroot NF. . In order to protect the public and provide for firefighter safety, the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests have closed Trail 313 from Skalkaho Pass to Sawmill Saddle, and all lands east of the trail and in the vicinity of the fire. If you need more detailed information about this trail and area closure call the Bitterroot NF office at 363-7176 or the Stevensville Ranger District office at 777-5461.
- In addition to smoke from nearby fires, much larger fires in central and southern Idaho continue to contribute significant smoke to the Bitterroot Valley.

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